

ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Summary of Minutes

March 23, 2004

Voting Members Present:

Chairman Dennis A. Garrett, Director, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Ray Allen, Assistant Fire Chief, City of Tucson Fire Department
Hal Collett, Sheriff, Arizona Sheriffs Association
Jan Hauk, President, Arizona Fire Districts Association
Tom Lannon, Assistant Police Chief, Phoenix Police Department
Kermit Miller, Assistant Chief, representing Richard Miranda, Chief, Tucson Police Dept.
Matt Parks, Asst. Director, representing Frank Navarrete, Director, DEM/Gov's Office of HS
Roy Ryals, Director of EMS Services, Rural/Metro Ambulance
Larry Stevens, Commander; representing Danny Sharp, Chief, Oro Valley Police Department
Nate White, Division Chief, Phoenix Fire Department

Voting Members Absent:

Michael Fusco, Fire Chief, Arizona Fire Chiefs Association
Jim Zieler, Chief, St. Johns Police Department, AACOP Representative

Other Attendees:

Jack Aguilar, Surprise Police Department
John Blackburn Jr., Interim Director, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Chuck Brotherton, Maricopa County Wireless Systems
Carol Campbell, Project Coordinator, Phoenix Police Department
Steven Campbell, Chief, Apache Junction Police Department
Phil Case, Comptroller, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Fred Christley, Manager, Arizona Game and Fish
Bryan Christopher, BS CIS, Health Data Security Coord., AZ Department of Health Services
Lloyd Collison, Macro Corporation
Larry Consalvos, IXP Corporation
Peter Decker, EMS Consultant, GSA & IHS Ambulances
Milan Dobras, Telecommunications Engineer, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Joe Gibson, Communications Center Manager, Southwest Ambulance
Mark Griffin, Communications, Chandler Police Department
Jeff Harris, Network Analyst, Maricopa County Wireless Systems
Joe Hindman, Technology Director, Scottsdale PD
Les Jones, Communications Project Liaison, City of Mesa
Curt Knight, Telecommunications Bureau Manager, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Eric Landau, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Jack Lane, Lieutenant/Legislative Liaison, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Andy MacFarlane, Communications Engineering Manager, Phoenix Fire Department
Terry McDonald, Apache Junction Police Department

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Tom McNally, Captain, Tucson Police Department
Chris Nadeau, Communications Manager, Goodyear PD
Pat Nelson, Records Program Coordinator, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission
Joe Noce, Public Safety Communications Administration, Mesa PD/APCO
Mark Openshaw, Assistant Fire Chief, Gila River Fire
L. Ordway, Arizona Game and Fish
Russ Osborne, Communications Network Specialist, City of Tempe
Cy Otsuka, Communications Engineer, Gila River PD
Debbie Overton, Director of Telecommunications Tech., Maricopa County Sheriffs Office
Steve Owen, Research Project Manger, Arizona Department of Transportation
Mark Pallans, City of Phoenix
Sheila Pattee, Glendale Police Department
Jim Perry, Administrator, City of Tucson
Kati Perry, Superintendent, Tucson Police Department
Wayne Pohlman, Maricopa County
Paul Punske, Motorola, Inc.
Georgene Ramming, CJSD Chief of Staff, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Kevin Rogers, Support System Analyst, Northern Arizona University Police Department
James Ryan, Government Information Technology Agency
Larry Sayers, Radio Communications Manager, Pima County
John Simmons, Captain, Phoenix Fire Department
Tim Singleton, EMSsystem Coordinator, Arizona Department of Health Services
Scott Tillman, Telecommunications Engineer, Arizona Department of Public Safety
Joseph Urrea, M.P.A. Health Alert Project Specialist, Arizona Department of Health Services
Julio Valenzuela, Senior Communications Network Specialist, City of Tempe
Jay Vargo, Communications Officer, Arizona Division of Emergency Management
Greg Wilkinson, Assistant Director, ITS & Telecommunications Services, City of Yuma
Dan Wills, Sedona Fire
Karl Witbeck, Managing Consultant, RCC Consultants, Inc.
Tim Wolfe, Assistant State Engineer, Arizona Department of Transportation
M. Worrew, Phoenix Fire Department

Call to Order

Director Dennis Garrett opened the meeting at 1:07 pm. Roll call and introductions of the attendees took place.

Minutes

A motion was made by Ray Allen to accept the minutes of September 23, 2003 and December 16, 2003; seconded by Hal Collett. Motion passed.

Legislative Proposal Update

Captain Tim Hill, Phoenix Fire Department (Officer with local fire fighters in Phoenix and

Legislative Liaison for the Professional fire fighters of Arizona) provided an update on the

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legislative proposal. There has been a 3-4 year old fight between cable and satellite TV regarding “tax equity.” Cable TV companies pay a large amount of money every year in franchise fees and taxes. Satellite TV does not pay any; which gives them a distinct competitive advantage. Cable TV has been trying to figure out a way to even that up and they continue to try and pass a tax increase that would go to the state general fund on satellite TV. This year they approached the legislature and asked if there was an area that public safety could make an immediate impact with the money if a tax increase was imposed on satellite TV. And they said “absolutely”: in the area of communications. The legislature has been working with cable TV during the course of the legislative session. Handouts of the original bill (HB2670) were provided. Included in the bill was a 4.5% tax on cable/satellite TV which would go into a trust fund, administered by the State treasurer for the State of Arizona, to award grants for communications improvements to local and county government, fire districts, and tribal government. There was no inclusion for the State of Arizona itself. The reason is because anytime a bill is passed and affects the funds of the state, adds money to the general fund, or has any type of impact to the state, it requires (under the constitution) a two thirds vote of both houses. But this funding would improve communications for localities and solve their other issues.

In working this bill through the process they found there is a lot of support for public safety, some support for the tax equity issue, but not nearly as much as there is for our communications issue. As for the issue today, there is a working group headed by Representative Steve Huffman (Tucson area) who is adamantly opposed to the tax equity issue, but wants to solve our issue. Other folks on the committee want to solve both issues. HB2670, and Senate Companion 1148 are dead, but both sides of the issues themselves are still alive. The legislature is working through the process. DPS and Phoenix Fire radio staff have been working very hard for two weeks to fill every information request imaginable to come up with the presentation of their draft bill; which in its current form does not have a number. The basis of the bill today would formalize in legislation, this committee into a “state commission.” It would provide staffing, funding for the staff, and funding to do the design work, traffic analysis, detail design, and everything needed to be done; short of actually building a statewide communications system. And of course, you can’t predict what that final funding need will be for the actual construction.

It was clarified that the bill mimics the charter which the PSCC currently operates under. The only difference is that because it is a legislatively authorized commission, so many people would be appointed by the President of the Senate, so many by the speaker of the House, and so many by the Governor. There are some Executive positions e.g. the DPS Director, and others that would be automatically placed on the commission. In addition, it would formalize an Advisory Committee, and specify which agencies and industries the people would represent. But that would be a minimal Advisory Board, and when the Commission has the ability to appoint additional Advisory Board members, it would also specify in the bill that one of the

jobs would be to support the ongoing functions of the SIEC.

The legislature is still working on the figures to provide an estimate for funding appropriations.

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This cannot be done on a year-to-year appropriation. There has to be an ongoing funding source and ongoing funds, so that it is continuously appropriated.

Macro Corporation Briefing

Lloyd Collison made a formal presentation on the Phase I of the Arizona Statewide Radio Interoperability needs assessment project.

Clarification was made reference interim plans vs. the interoperability expansion. An interim plan is when you attempt to fix things (with minimal dollars) that are imminently going to fail. There may be some things that are not in good shape, or you may have a coverage area that is real bad, and there may be a reasonable way to fix that. You do not want to spend a lot of money in the interim, before you have a plan. As for interoperability - presently there is UHF/VHF throughout the state (interagency coverage). There were a lot of complaints that it does not work well. Everyone needs increased interoperability, and there are ways to make that better.

Phase II is about 85-90% complete. A draft report will be provided April 30, 2004, to solicit input and comments. MACRO Corporation is not under contract after the end of their Phase II Final Report.

The next phase is to proceed into an engineering phase which can be accomplished in many ways. MACRO advises that the more engineering done prior to procurement, the smoother procurement you will have, along with a minimal number of change orders. And therefore, it would be less costly with shorter time frames to deal with.

Strategic Plan Updates

SIEC ACTIVITIES - Chairman Nate White clarified the role of the SIEC and provided background on some of the work that has been done on the SIEC subcommittees. He emphasized the importance on establishing user representation from across the state. He thanked everyone for their support and dedication in working behind the scenes on this issue. The SIEC established subcommittees to map some of the responsibilities. Subcommittees were separated into three working groups and Co-chairs were established: 1) Administrative: Co-chair Joe Noce 2) Technical: Co-chairs Curt Knight & Andy MacFarlane 3) Operations: Co-chair Dan Wills.

SIEC wants to develop a solid stakeholder list from all of Arizona. They want to develop and administer an interoperability plan. The original role of the SIEC was to oversee and be responsible for the interoperability plan of the 700 MHz spectrum. Nate White mentioned the numerous groups with interoperability responsibility, and/or programs underway in Arizona, e.g., APCO, ARRC, Homeland Security Technical standards, and other groups working towards the same goal, be brought under the SIEC; a wide diverse working group from all regions of Arizona to avoid duplicating efforts. Nate White made a motion that this is the direction the SIEC take, and have the responsibility and direction of managing all interoperability public safety spectrum, seconded by Kermit Miller. Motion passed.

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SIEC has the responsibility to develop, not only the technical infrastructure recommendation for interoperability in all public safety for the State of Arizona, but also to plan and develop protocols for this communication system. SIEC has the authority to develop an interoperability plan. Other responsibilities involved administering the interoperability channels and include the creation and oversight of incident response protocols, creation of change of command of incident response and reporting, and executing memorandums of understanding and sharing agreements. SIEC is taking that direction.

The SIEC will hold monthly meetings and are working diligently to establish a communication process. They will be using the DPS website, and electronic communication to get the word out. SIEC will report to the PSCC committee.

Director Garrett stated that the proposed legislation that Tim Hill and Jack Lane are working on, will provide funding for the PSCC as well as the SIEC; if it comes to fruition. Information will be made available as it develops - so you can contact your legislators.

CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS / OUTREACH AND EDUCATION - Director Garrett met with four of our congressional delegates in Washington, D.C. He mentioned he is always addressing our dire need for communications, and most congressional staff are aware of our major issue.

David Felix has attended several of the Ambulance Association meetings and several professional organization meetings to get the word out.

Curt Knight is scheduled to meet with ACJC on Thursday, to discuss the status on the grant funding they helped procure for the Arizona Statewide Radio Interoperability Needs Assessment project.

INTEROPERABILITY EXERCISES - Jay Vargo reported on the Four Border County project that involved the installation and set up of an ACU 1000 in Santa Cruz, Pima, Cochise, and Yuma Counties. The installation and training has been completed. Counties are working to establish and update interagency agreements, and are working on other procedures that will support the use of the ACU 1000 in their respective areas. The current agreements did not reflect the use of this and sharing of frequencies. This also blends in with some of the things we are trying to do with the SIEC, in that you have to come up with a plan.

In regards to the 11 other counties, DEMA sent out another Request For Proposal (RFP) on the statewide interoperability communications project fixed facility on March 5, 2004. The RFP has two phases: 1) to identify the immediate needs of the interoperability problems and get recommended solutions for each of the 11 counties.

In working on the four border county project, they realized there are some things they could do within a 12-18 month time frame, that would help. The focus is near term, low-cost solutions. At the last PSCC meeting, they asked to use the MACRO study data information. These figures

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will be utilized to help eliminate redundant and confusing efforts of continually asking agencies to complete surveys. But there will be some requirement for gap analysis and they may need to verify some content to interpret the data correctly. Any questions on the scope of this work or bidder/vendor questions on this project, contact Jay Vargo.

A comment was made that the SIEC will be used as a “steering committee” for this project to make sure they maintain awareness.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE - Curt Knight mentioned the Governance Structure will be handled on the legislative proposal.

Open Discussion / Comments

MACRO Corporation will be recommending a single band. The 700/800 band is a good planning assumption. It is not one band, but it is considered one band because of the way the equipment is being manufactured. You can get interoperability with 700/800 MHz band.

The FCC web page defines the SIEC responsibilities.

The next 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee is scheduled for 1:00 pm on April 30, 2004, at Lake Havasu City Police Department.

Curt Knight mentioned that Director Garrett recently signed a letter to all 700 MHz TV low power and translator users (or licensees) in Arizona. The letter was to make notification of the fact that Arizona is going through the planning process to use 700MHz in the near future and that a trial system will be deployed in the Phoenix metro area on the state license. Any feedback on this issue should be directed to Curt Knight.

The MTUG (Motorola Trunk User Group) meetings will restart April 21, 2004. The interoperability efforts will be discussed and everyone is welcomed to attend. It has been very beneficial in the past. The meeting will be held at the MCSO new training facility.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 22, 2004.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.